companies within a period of 8 weeks from the date of the judgement and thereafter to fix the prices within two weeks from the date of conclusion of the hearing. Hearing was given to the concerned companies as per the directions of the Supreme Court and further action has been taken as per due process of law. Some amounts have been recovered from some of the companies.

Decontrolling prices of finished medicines

2356. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted the imported finished medicines from price control under DPCO, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of the imported medicines are based on drugs included for price control under categories I and II;

(c) if so, how exemption of imported formulations will help boosting of indigenous production;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prices of imported inactivated Rabies Vaccine, Measles Vaccine, MMR Vaccine Meningococal Vaccine and other Vaccines and seras have gone up by 15 per cent to 50 per cent after the announcement of DPCO, 1987; and

(e) if so, what is the justification for these increases of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. All imported formulations falling under Categories I and II are price controlled.

(b) and (c) The importers of non-scheduled formulations are required to workout their prices with only 50 per cent margin on the landed cost as in the case of scheduled formulations and to furnish the details of proposed retail price in Form-3 as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. Government is empowered to fix the price of any formulation including non-scheduled formulation wherever found necessary.

(d) and (e) No intimation in this regard has been received from the importers of the vaccines referred to in the question.

Production of tonics and vitamines

2357. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of drug companies concentrated mainly on the production of tonics and vitamin preparations in the past and made huge profits instead of producing essential medicines;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that all major ingredients such as enzymes iron salts, vitamins, etc., going into the production of tonics and vitamin preparations have been excluded from price control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have increased the mark up by 40 per cent on these preparations; and

(d) if so, how these steps will discourage the productions of tonics and vitamin preparations and encourage the production of essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Product mix of same companies indicated higher proportion of these items than other medicines. With a view to discouraging this trend, rate of MAPE for the most of the essential drugs has been increased to encourage their production where as all vitamin combination formulations have been kept under price control, under the DPCO, 1987.

Exclusion of drugs from price control

2358. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government excluded certain drugs from the list